

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 110829Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7986
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY THERAN
USCINCEUR ECJ 4/7
SECDEF WASHDC ISA/DSAA

S E C R E T RABAT 1378

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS MO
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO

REF: STATE 055551

1. CHMUSLO HAD MEETING WITH COL. KABBAJ, INSPECTOR RMAF, ON
9 MAR TO PASS INFORMATION AS INSTRUCTED REFTTEL, PARA 4.
KABBAJ STATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF REPLACEMENT CONDITIONS ASKED
BY GOI ON HOWITZERS BUT THAT HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH IRANIAN
AMBASSADOR IN RABAT AND WOULD RESOLVE THE MATTER.

2. KABBAJ SHOWED VISIBLE CONCERN THAT THE TRANSFER OF THE SIX
F-5AS FROM IRAN WAS STILL HANGING FIRE. HE STATED THAT HE HAD
PERSONALLY SEEN ALL OF THE NECESSARY WRITTEN REQUESTS IN THE HANDS
OF AMBASSADOR PICKERING IN AMMAN EIGHT DAYS AGO AND HAD BEEN TOLD
THAT EVERYTHING HAD BEEN DONE ON THAT END. KABBAJ STATED THAT GOM
IS SURPRISED AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS AND ASKED THAT THIS BE
REGISTERED WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. KABBAJ ALSO ASKED
WHETHER EMBASSY AMMAN COULD BE CONTACTED FOR PRESENT STATUS OF
DETAILS AND HE COULD BE ADVISED FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER GOM ACTION.
CHMUSLO PROMISED TO PASS ALONG KABBAJ'S REQUEST.

3. KABBAJ THEN REITERATED POINTS HE MADE IN 5 MARCH CONVERSATION
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(REPORTED CHMUSLO 091021Z MAR 76) WITH SOME AMPLIFICATION. HE SAID

THAT HE WANTED TO GET AS MANY AIRCRAFT AS PRACTICAL TO CONVINCE GOA THAT GOM DID NOT HAVE A WEAK AIR FORCE. HE FELT THAT WITH SUCH A SHOWING OF STRENGTH, POSSIBILITY OF A WAR WOULD DIMINISH OVER THE NEXT 4 TO 5 MONTHS. HE STATED THAT IT WAS NOT TOO IMPORTANT WHETHER THE AIRCRAFT WERE FLYABLE OR NOT, FOR THEIR PHYSICAL PRESENCE ALONG WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL DETERRENCE. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AS TENSIONS LESSEN VIS-A-VIS GOA, THE F-5AS IN QUESTION COULD BE RETURNED TO GOJ A FEW AT A TIME. "WHAT DO I WANT WITH F-5AS WHEN I AM BUYING F-5E'S?", HE QUIPPED. HE REITERATED THAT HE FELT MOROCCO NEEDED ALL 26 AIRCRAFT BUT MIGHT GET BY WITH 16. "I KNOW THAT THESE DECISIONS ARE MADE AT VERY HIGH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND THEN THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER HAS TO TRY TO LIVE WITH THEM", HE COMMENTED.

4. KABBAJ CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THERE IS URGENCY FOR TRANSFER OF THE F-5AS (PARTICULARLY THE SIX FROM GOI). IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL IRANIAN F-5A SPARES AND EQUIPMENT ARE TO BE GIVEN TO MOROCCO. HE ALSO OPINED THAT PERHAPS 30 PCT OF SUCH PARTS ARE COMMON TO THE F-5E AND WOULD THEREFORE BE RETAINED BY GOI. HE PLANS TO OBTAIN AIM-9B TRAINING ASSISTANCE FROM GOJ BUT FEELS HE WILL STILL NEED ASSISTANCE OF MTT REQUESTED OF USAF. (COMMENT: IF AMEMB AMMAN BELIEVES THAT GOJ TRAINING ASSISTANCE WILL BE ADEQUATE USG MIGHT WANT TO SLOW UP OR CANCEL AIM-9B MTT REQUESTED OF USG. END COMMENT.)
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